

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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A - MISS GRIMES (DRAFT)

H - MR. SCHNEE (INFO)

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S/S -O: J. HOGANSON

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS TOSEC 30

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CODEL ALBERT-RHODES), PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: MEMBER OF CODEL STAFF HAS 16 MM FILM

CONFISCATED IN PRC

WHITE HOUSE PASS PALM SPRINGS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. REPRESENTATIVE RHODES' PRESS OFFICE RECEIVED PHONE CALL THIS MORNING (WASHINGTON TIME) FROM JAY SMITH (RHODES' PRESS SECRETARY) IN SHANGHAI, INCOURSE OF WHICH SMITH ASKED, BY THE WAY, THAT NBC BE INFORMED THAT CHINESE HAD CONFISCATED HIS 16 MM MOVIE FILM THE FIRST TIME HE TRIED TO USE CAMERA. PRESS OFFICE PASSED THIS WORD TO NBC, THEN TO DEPARTMENT.

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2. FYI: DEPARTMENT LEARNED SOME TIME AFTER CODEL HAD

LEFT WASHINGTON THAT NBC HAD LOANED SMITH A 16 MM CAMERA
ON UNDERSTANDING NBC COULD EXPLOIT ANY INTERESTING
FOOTAGE HE TOOK ON CHINA TRIP. FILM WAS TO BE HANDED OVER

TO NBC IN HONG KONG UPON CODEL'S ARRIVAL THERE. TO
BEST OF DEPARTMENT'S KNOWLEDGE, CODEL AND ALL STAFF
MEMBERS WERE INFORMED BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON OF
CHINESE PROHIBITION ON USE OF 16 MM CAMERAS. END FYI.

3. RAY SHEARER OF NBC NEWS CALLED EA/PRCM OFFICER
(BROOKS) THIS AFTERNOON AND ASKED WITH APPARENT BE-
WILDERMENT WHY CHINESE WOULD HAVE CONFISCATED SMITH'S
FILM. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED, ON BASIS OF SHEARER'S FIRST
AGREEING THAT THIS WAS STRICTLY FOR NBC'S INTERNAL
CORPORATE INFORMATION AND NOT FOR ANY NEWS USE. POINTS
COVERED INCLUDED PRC TURNDOWN OF RHODES' PROPOSAL TO TAKE
A TV CREW WITH CODEL, AND DEPTOFF'S BELIEF THAT ALL
MEMBERS OF THE ALBERT/RHODES PARTY HAD BEEN INFORMED
BEFOREHAND OF CHINESE PROHIBITION ON 16 MM FILMING.

4. GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF THIS AFFAIR, ESPECIALLY
PRIVATE NATURE OF NBC'S DEAL WITH SMITH, DEPARTMENT
DOUBTS NBC WILL HAVE ANY INTEREST IN MAKING A STORY OF
IT. CONGEN WILL OF COURSE WANT TO BRIEF GLEYSTEN ON
THESE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE WASHINGTON END WHEN CODEL
ARRIVES IN HONG KONG.
INGERSOLL

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